

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 53, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Although air is a preferred carrier gas for the foregoing compounds, it will be appreciated that any oxygen-containing gas can be used. A more preferred pyrolyzation temperature for  $Y_2O_3$  is from about 900[[-]] to about 950°C. Other pyrolyzation and heating treatments are possible. For example, BAM precursor particles can be heated in an oxygen-containing gas such as air at 1200-1600°C to convert the precursor to BAM, and then be heated at 1400-1650°C in a hydrogen-containing gas to reduce  $Eu^{3+}$  to  $Eu^{2+}$ . The heat treatment time is preferably not more than about 2 hours and can be as little as about 1 minute. To reduce agglomeration, the intermediate particles are preferably heat treated under sufficient agitation to minimize the agglomeration of the particles. One preferred method for agitating during heat treatment is to heat treat the powders in a rotary kiln, wherein the powders are constantly moving through a tubular furnace that is rotating on its major axis.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 58, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

The phosphor particles of the present invention are also preferably substantially spherical in shape. That is, the particles are not jagged or irregular in shape. Spherical particles are particularly advantageous because they are able to disperse and coat a device, such as a display panel, more uniformly with a reduced average thickness. Although the particles are preferably substantially spherical, the particles may become faceted as the crystallite size increases while maintaining a substantially spherical morphology.